

## SAFETY BULLETIN

### SBO1-011 Winter, Your Car, and You. Be Prepared!

August 2001 (Revised)

Driving in the winter means snow, sleet and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through the winter here are some suggestions from the Fort Riley Safety Division to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

#### Weather

At any temperature (20 degrees Fahrenheit below zero or 90 degrees Fahrenheit above) weather affects road and driving conditions, and can pose serious problems. It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather channels, or forecasts in the daily papers.

#### Your Car

Prepare your car for winter. Start with a checkup that includes:

- Checking the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts.
- Changing and adjusting the spark plug gaps.
- Checking the air, fuel and emission filters, and the PCV valve.
- Inspecting the distributor cap and wires.
- Checking the battery cables and electrolyte levels.
- Ensure the wiper reservoir is filled with a winter type solution.
- Checking the tires for proper inflation, sidewall wear, and tread depth.

Your car should have a tune up every 12,000 to 15,000 miles to ensure better fuel economy, quicker starts and faster response on pick-up and passing power.

#### Necessary Equipment

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time, and you must be prepared. Following the tune-up, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry:

- A properly inflated spare tire, lug wrench and jack.
- A shovel
- Jumper cables
- Tow and tire chains
- A bag of salt or cat litter

A basic tool kit for emergency

#### Essential Supplies

You must be prepared with a "survival kit" that should always remain in the car, be replenished after use, and contain the following:

- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Flares, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- A compass
- First Aid Kit
- A scraper with brush to remove ice and snow from the windshield.
- A blanket or thermal wrap